

Problem	Possible Solution
<p><b>Lack of oral cancer literacy</b></p> <p>Public Provider Policy makers Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education of what is oral cancer to individual/consumers</li> <li>• Educating the media about oral cancer and using media to relay prevention messages</li> <li>• Educating policy makers about oral cancer and how it affects their constituents</li> <li>• Specific education messages to individuals that have risk factors.</li> <li>• Education messages to individuals that do not currently have risk factors, but may chose to engage in high risk behaviors in the future</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lack of access to and utilization of early detection and preventive services</b></p> <p>People of lower SES are more likely to go to a physician rather than a dentist because Maryland medical assistance and Medicare do not cover dental visits</p> <p>Access to oral health services for low-income populations is a problem in Maryland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both PCP and Dental Health Professionals need to be educated about oral cancer and how do to an oral cancer exam</li> <li>• This education can occur as a curriculum change or in CME/CEU courses</li> <li>• The result would be appropriate screening and referral of clients.</li> <li>• Individuals diagnosed with oral cancer or a pre-cancerous lesion need to receive education about how to access services and the importance of decreasing risk behavior(s)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lack of access to appropriate oral cancer treatment</b></p> <p>Problems occur when a lesion is identified and the patient must be referred; many issues with referral systems and subsequently getting the patient the appropriate treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a clearinghouse for information to practitioners and patients pertaining to access to medical and/or dental coverage for screening, testing, diagnosing, and/or treatment of oral cancer and related procedures</li> <li>• Develop some type of central State resource for referral and case management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covering of medically necessary dental procedures</li> <li>• Mandating CME/CEU course on oral cancer (model after CPR certification)</li> <li>• Uniform dental coverage for Medicaid adults</li> <li>• Management/incorporation of uninsured/undocumented patients</li> <li>• Funding for research including practice patterns, screening effectiveness, testing for HPV, evaluation of existing programs, stage at diagnosis, who is diagnosing, treatment and cures</li> <li>• Maintain and increase funding and support for current oral cancer program</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancer comprehension module to get medical and dental licensure</li> <li>• Medical and Dental Board licensure and re-licensure</li> </ul>
<b>Disparities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for oral cancer deaths.</li> <li>• African Americans in the US have a higher rate of new oral cancer cases when compared to whites (12.5% vs. 10%).</li> <li>• The 5-year survival rate for African Americans diagnosed with oral cancer is 33% versus a 50% survival rate for whites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop, implement and evaluate a comprehensive plan to reduce disparities which are mainly an outcome of lack of access and health literacy</li> </ul>